

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /064 W

-----028530 011142Z /20

O R 011105Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7801

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2662

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNGA

SUBJ: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS: PROPOSED VISIT OF AMBASSADOR

MELISSA WELLS AND COUNSELLOR RICHARD PETREE

REF: STATE 177836

1. REFTTEL PROPOSES VISIT TO SRI LANKA FOR DISCUSSIONS THURSDAY/FRIDAY, AUGUST 18/19. WE DO HAVE CERTAIN SCHEDULING AND CONSULTATION PROBLEMS.

2. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE WRIGGINS ARRIVES AUGUST 13, AND WILL PRESUMABLY PRESENT CREDENTIALS THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15, DATE AS YET NOW KNOWN. NEW SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT HAS JUST TAKEN OFFICE, AND HAS BY NO MEANS SORTED OUT SUCH FOREIGN POLICY AND PERSONNEL QUESTIONS AS JUST WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY IN MATTERS PERTINENT TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOGUE, WHETHER THIS FUNCTION MIGHT BE INSERTED INTO A FOREIGN MINISTRY JUST SEPARATED FOR FIRST TIME IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY FROM DEFENCE MINISTRY AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WHO MIGHT BE ATTENDING 32ND UNGA, AND SO ON.

3. IN PRINCIPLE, WE BELIEVE THE NEW GSL WOULD WELCOME SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT AND, IN EFFECT, EDUCATE ITSELF AS

TO THE ISSUES IT FACES IN THE NEXT UNGA. AT THE VERY LEAST, WE WOULD EXPECT WARM AND FRIENDLY MEETINGS WITH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER (A.C.S. HAMEED), THE NEW DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER (A YOUNG, NEWLY ELECTED MP NAMED RANIL WICKREMASINGHE, AGED ABOUT 28 YEARS, WITHOUT PREVIOUS FOREIGN AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE), AND SENIOR CAREER FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS (SECRETARY W.T. JAYASINGHE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL ARTHUR BASNAYAKE).

4. EMBASSY WONDERS WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ADVANCE THE KARACHI-BANGKOK-JAKARTA PORTION OF THE ITINERARY, LEAVING COLOMBO TO BE COVERED AT THE END BY ROUND TRIP FROM SINGAPORE. FOR EXAMPLE, ON TUESDAY EVENING, AUGUST 23, THERE ARE TWO EARLY EVENING FLIGHTS (KLM 832 AND SQ 032A) FROM SINGAPORE TO COLOMBO, AND THERE IS A RETURN FLIGHT ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 (SQ 043A), LEAVING HERE AT 12:15 PM AND ALLOWING NEARLY 24 HOURS IN SINGAPORE BEFORE THE PAN AM FLIGHT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 26. EMPLOYING THESE, ONE COULD SCHEDULE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THIS SCHEDULE SHIFT IS IMPRACTICAL, SUGGEST WE GO AHEAD AND TRY GSL ON PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED AUGUST 18-19 DATES. CHARGE HAS FILED WRITTEN REQUEST (REQUIRED BY NEW GOVERNMENT FOR TIME BEING) FOR CALL ON NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT HAS BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY IT MAY NOT OCCUR UNTIL AUGUST 5 OR 8. WE WILL RAISE THE MATTER AT THAT MEETING IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT SUGGESTIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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